Appeal Brief Dated: November 13, 2007

<u>Amendments to the Claims:</u> This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A system for treating vasculature at a repair site, comprising: a first treatment component;

a first sheath having the first treatment component and configured to receive a subsequent treatment component after the first sheath is placed within the vasculature and the first treatment component is deployed, the first sheath having an inferior end and a length sufficient to extend to a repair site within the vasculature; and

a loading capsule configured to receive a subsequent treatment component, wherein the loading capsule includes a superior terminal end that is configured to mate with the inferior end of the first sheath.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of subsequent treatment components.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The system of claim 2, wherein the initial sheath is retracted to deploy treatment components at a repair site.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The system of claim 2, wherein the first sheath is configured to retain the plurality of subsequent treatment components in a compressed configuration.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the first treatment component is self-expanding.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The system of claim 5, wherein the loading capsule is configured to releasably retain the first treatment component in a compressed configuration.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, further comprising a guidewire.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, further comprising a pusher assembly.

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Claim 9 (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the pusher assembly is configured to simultaneously engage a plurality of treatment components.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The <u>A</u> system of claim 8 for treating vasculature at a repair site, comprising:

## a first treatment component;

a first sheath having the first treatment component and configured to receive a subsequent treatment component after the first sheath is placed within the vasculature and the first treatment component is deployed, the first sheath having an inferior end and a length sufficient to extend to a repair site within the vasculature;

a loading capsule configured to receive a subsequent treatment component, wherein the loading capsule includes a superior terminal end that is configured to mate with the inferior end of the first sheath; and

a pusher assembly, the pusher assembly further comprising a tapered flexible tip.

Claim 11 (currently amended) The A system of claim 8 for treating vasculature at a repair site, comprising:

## a first treatment component;

a first sheath having the first treatment component and configured to receive a subsequent treatment component after the first sheath is placed within the vasculature and the first treatment component is deployed, the first sheath having an inferior end and a length sufficient to extend to a repair site within the vasculature;

a loading capsule configured to receive a subsequent treatment component, wherein the loading capsule includes a superior terminal end that is configured to mate with the inferior end of the first sheath; and

<u>a pusher assembly</u>, the pusher assembly being adapted to accomplish cloverfolding of the first treatment component.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The system of claim 8, the pusher assembly includes an inner tube.

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Claim 13 (previously presented): The system of claim 12, the inner tube including an inferior end, a superior end and an exit notch.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The system of claim 13, the inner tube further comprising a guidewire passageway between the superior end and exit notch.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The system of claim I, wherein the loading capsule and first sheath have approximately equal outer profiles at a mating juncture therebetween.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the pusher assembly is configured to advance treatment components substantially the length of the first sheath.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the first sheath remains within vasculature during the delivery of multiple treatment components at a repair site.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A system for treating vasculature at a repair site, comprising:

a plurality of endovascular graft components;

a pusher assembly configured to releasably receive each of the plurality of endovascular graft components;

a loading capsule assembly configured to receive the pusher assembly and including a superior terminal end; and an introducer sheath having an inferior end configured to mate with the superior terminal end of the loading capsule assembly and to facilitate the transfer of the plurality of endovascular graft components from the loading capsule assembly.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The system of claim 18, wherein the introducer sheath and the loading capsule have substantially the same outer profiles at a mating juncture therebetween.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The system of claim 18, further comprising a guidewire.

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Claim 21 (previously presented): The system of claim 18, wherein each of the plurality of endovascular grafts are self-expanding.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A method for treating vasculature at a repair site using a system including an initial introducer sheath having an inferior end and configured to receive; an endovascular graft and configured to receive subsequent endovascular graft components carried by a loading capsule with a superior terminal end after placement of the introducer sheath within vasculature, the introducer sheath extending to the repair site, comprising:

gaining access to vasculature;

inserting initial introducer sheath loaded with the endovascular graft component within vasculature and positioning a superior end of the initial introducer sheath at the repair site; retracting the initial introducer sheath to deploy the endovascular graft component; mating the superior terminal end of the loading capsule with the inferior end of the initial introducer sheath;

inserting a subsequent endovascular graft component in the inferior end of the initial introducer sheath;

advancing the subsequent endovascular graft component within the initial introducer sheath; and

deploying the subsequent endovascular graft component at the repair site by retracting the initial introducer sheath.

Claim 23 (currently amended) The A method of claim 22, wherein the system includes a pusher assembly and a loading capsule assembly, for treating vasculature at a repair site using a system including an initial introducer sheath having an inferior end and configured to receive; an endovascular graft and configured to receive subsequent endovascular graft components carried by a loading capsule with a superior terminal end after placement of the introducer sheath within vasculature, the introducer sheath extending to the repair site, comprising:

gaining access to vasculature;

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inserting initial introducer sheath loaded with the endovascular graft component within vasculature and positioning a superior end of the initial introducer sheath at the repair site; retracting the initial introducer sheath to deploy the endovascular graft component; mating the superior terminal end of the loading capsule with the inferior end of the initial introducer sheath;

inserting a subsequent endovascular graft component in the inferior end of the initial introducer sheath;

advancing the subsequent endovascular graft component within the initial introducer sheath; and

<u>deploying the subsequent endovascular graft component at the repair site by retracting the initial introducer sheath.</u>

configuring a plurality of subsequent endovascular graft components on the a pusher assembly; and

advancing the pusher assembly first through the <u>a</u>loading capsule and then into the introducer sheath.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The system of claim I, further comprising:

a first fitting, the first fitting attached to the superior terminal end of the loading capsule; and

a second fitting, the second fitting attached to the inferior end of the first sheath; wherein the first fitting and second fitting releasably connect to each other.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The system of claim 18, further comprising:

a first fitting, the first fitting attached to the superior terminal end of the loading capsule; and

a second fitting, the second fitting attached to the inferior end of the first sheath; wherein the first fitting and second fitting releasably connect to each other.